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ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ

SIVE

SCRIPTORES SEPTENTRIONALES RERUM ANTE-COLUMBIANARUM IN AMERICA.

Alexander von Humboldt, who of all modern travellers has thrown the greatest light on the physical circumstances, first discovery, and earliest history of America, has admitted that the Scandinavian Northmen were the true original discoverers of the New World; a fact which several later writers of eminence have nevertheless either flatly denied, or called in question. The above mentioned great inquirer has however remarked that the information which the Public as yet possesses of that remarkable epoch in the middle ages is extremely scanty, and he has expressed a wish that the Northern Literati would collect and publish all the accounts relating to that subject. The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries considers it a matter of duty to comply with this wish, embracing a threefold purpose: that of illustrating ancient geography and history; that of perpetuating the memory of our forefathers, and lastly that of everlastingly securing to them that honorable station in the history of the World, of Science, of Navigation, and of Commerce, to which they are justly entitled. This has appeared to the Society to be so much the more necessary, since the latest researches have rendered it in a high degree probable, that the knowledge of the previous Scandinavian discovery of America, preserved in Iceland, and communicated to Columbus when he visited that island in 1477, operated as one, and doubtless as one of the most powerful of the causes which inspired the mind of that great man (whose glory cannot in any degree be impaired by the prior achievement) with that admirable zeal, which bidding defiance to every difficulty enabled him to effect the new discovery of the New World under circumstances that necessarily led to its immediate, uninterrupted, and constantly increasing colonization and occupation by the energetic and intelligent races of Europe. For this his memory will be imperishable among the nations of the earth. Yet still we Northmen ought not to forget his meritorious predecessors, our own forefathers, who in their way had difficulties to contend with not less formidable, since

without knowledge of the properties of the magnet, without aid of compass, charts, or mathematical science properly so called, they dared to navigate the great Ocean, and thus by degrees discovered and partly colonized Iceland in the ninth century, Greenland in the tenth, and subsequently several of the Islands and Coasts of America during the latter part of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century.

It is the last of these epochs — very remarkable in the history of the world, yet not sufficiently known — that forms the subject of the work now announced. No separate work has hitherto been devoted to this subject, if we except the Vinlandia of Torfæus, published in 1705, and now extremely scarce. That work however does not contain any collection of the original statements on which the investigation must be based, and such accounts as it does communicate are but few and incomplete. This collection therefore now makes its appearance for the first time as complete as possible, compiled from the numerous and valuable MSS now extant, and accompanied by a Danish and also *a complete Latin translation;* and by prefatory remarks, archæological and geographical disquisitions, and other critical apparatus also in Latin. Of its contents we can here merely give a brief sketch, mentioning only the principal sections. Among these may be named, first the historical accounts of Erik the Red, and the Greenlanders, extracted — and now for the first time accurately published — from the celebrated Codex Flateyensis, particularly concerning Biarne Heriulfson's and Leif Ericson's first discovery of the American Islands and Coasts, and the several voyages thither, performed by Leif's brothers and sister. Next the Saga of Thorfinn Thordson surnamed Karlsefne, descended from Irish, Scottish, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish Ancestors, chiefly taken from two ancient MSS never before edited, and in fact not previously known to the Literati, the one of which is supposed to be partly a genuine autograph of the celebrated Hauk Erlendson, Lawman of Iceland, well known as a compiler of one of the Recensions of the Landnama-book. This very remarkable Saga contains detailed accounts of Thorfinn Karlsefne's and his company's three years voyages and residence in America, whereby an entirely new light is diffused over this subject hitherto so little known. The only knowledge that Torfæus had of this Saga, which he imagined to be lost, was derived from some corrupted extracts of it contained in the collection of materials for the history of ancient Greenland left by the Iceland Farmer Biörn Johnson of Skardso. It is now for the first time submitted to the literary world in a complete form. The work here announced moreover contains every thing else that the Society has been able to collect and discover relating to that knowledge of the New World which our forefathers obtained from the early discoveries and researches of the Northmen. Among these we may mention, 1. Adam of Bremen's accounts of Vineland (in America) written in the eleventh century, being in fact communicated to him by the Danish King Sweyn Estrithson, and compiled from authentic accounts furnished to him by Danes, and now for the first time published from the excellent Codex in the Imperial Library at Vienna, of which a Facsimile has been transmitted to the Society by the Chief of the Library, Count Dietrichstein. 2. Are Frode's account of Vineland, written in the same or in the following century; and also 3, of the eminent Icelandic chief Are Marson, one of his own ancestors, who in the year 983 was driven to a part of America situate near Vineland, then called Hvitramannaland or Great Ireland, whose inhabitants (of Irish origin) prevented him from returning, but at the same time treated him with great respect. 4. Other ancient accounts respecting the Icelandic hero Biörn Asbrandson, in his

day one of the Iomsburg Warriours under Palnatoke, and fighting along with them in the battle of Fyrisval in Sweden: he also in the year 999 repaired to one of the coasts of America, where he was detained in the same manner, but resided there as chief over the natives for about 30 years. 5. Account of an Icelandic mariner, GUDLEIF GUDLAUGSON, who was driven to the same coast in the year 1027, and who was rescued from death or captivity by his above mentioned countryman. 6. Extracts from the Annals of Iceland of the middle ages, in so far as they relate to America, particularly BISHOP ERIC'S voyage to Vineland in 1121; the discovery of new countries by the Icelanders in the Western Ocean in 1285; an expedition from Norway and Iceland in the year 1288–90; and also a trading voyage from the ancient colony in Greenland to MARKLAND in America in 1347, as recorded by contemporaries. 7. Ancient accounts of the most northern districts of Greenland and America, chiefly visited by the Northmen for the purpose of hunting and fishing; among these a very remarkable account (from a letter of a Greenland clergyman) of A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY undertaken by some clergymen from the Bishopric of Gardar in Greenland, in the year 1266, being — as is corroborated by an astronomical observation — THROUGH LANCASTER SOUND AND BARROW'S STRAIT to regions which in our days have for the first time been made correctly known through the zealous exertions of Sir William Parry, Sir John Ross, and Capt. James Clark Ross, and other British navigators. 8. Extracts from the ancient geographical works of the Icelanders, to which is added an outline taken in the 13th century representing the earth in four inhabited quarters. 9. An ancient Faroish Qväji whereon Vineland is named, and allusion is made to its connexion with Ireland.

To which are added I. A description accompanied by delineations and occasionally by perspective views of several *Monuments*, chiefly *Inscriptions, from the middle ages*, found partly in GREENLAND and partly in the States of MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND in North America, on the one hand confirming the accounts in the Sagas, and on the other illustrated by them. II. Detailed *Geographical Inquiries* lately undertaken at the instance of the Society, whereby the sites of the regions and places named in the Sagas are explored, and are pointed out under the names by which they are now commonly known, viz. NEWFOUNDLAND, BAY OF ST. LAWRENCE, NOVA SCOTIA, and especially the States of MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND, and even districts more to the South, probably situate in VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, and in FLORIDA, which is supposed to be the most southerly land mentioned in the most authentic Saga-accounts, although sundry of the Northern Geographers of the middle ages would seem to intimate their knowledge of the easterly direction taken by the continent of South America. They are chiefly based on the accounts in the ancient MSS. and on the explanations of the *astronomical*, *nautical* and *geographical statements* contained in the same, which besides receive the most complete confirmation from accounts transmitted by distinguished American scholars, with whom the Society have entered into correspondence, and who, after several journeys undertaken for that object in Massachusets and Rhode-Island, have communicated accurate illustrations respecting the nature of the countries, their climate, animals, productions, etc., and have furnished the Society with descriptions and also with delineations of the ancient Monuments found there. III. *A Chronological Conspectus*, arranging under their proper dates the several voyages to America and the most important events which occurred in that quarter of the world. IV. *An Index of Persons*, in which the names of those persons (of both sexes) who took part in the American Voyages are printed in a different type. V. *A Geographical Index*, in which the same method is followed

in regard to names of places mentioned in America. VI. *An Index Rerum*, containing among other things the names of the various productions of the American countries. VII. *Genealogical Tables*, showing the lineage of the most eminent of the Northern discoverers of America, continued down to our days, whereby it is demonstrated that many persons now living in Iceland, Norway, and Denmark, as also the celebrated sculptor Thorwaldsen in Rome, do actually descend from them, that is from men, who 800 years ago were the chiefs of the American natives, or who were at that remote period born in America.

The work consists of 65 sheets large Quarto and is accompanied by *18 large engravings*, viz: 8 FACSIMILES, some of which represent entire pages of the best of the MSS employed on the present occasion, in order to give a clear and complete idea of their nature: by dint of much pains the artist has succeeded in representing them with great accuracy, both as regards the outlines of the letters, which were often much faded away and difficult to discern, and also the colour of the different parchments. Further 4 MAPS, viz: 1. One of *Ancient Iceland*, being the first ever made, representing its republican division about the year 1000, constructed by the Icelandic geographer Biörn Gunnlaugson with the aid of Finn Magnusen and other Icelandic scholars. 2. *A Map of the district of Julianehaab in Greenland*, probably comprizing the Eystribygd, as it was called, (also important in a geographical point of view), constructed for the Society by Capt. William A. Graah R. N. from observations and measurements made by him in the country itself, and from such other authorities as were available. On this map are noted the numerous sites (rudera) of churches and houses of the ancient colonists, as far as these are now known. 3. *A General Chart* of the Northern Icy Ocean, and of the *Coasts of the Atlantic*, for the purpose of exhibiting a view of the voyages of discovery. Here is delineated the Eastern part of North-America, together with such names of countries, capes, firths, islands, and places, from LANCASTER-SOUND to FLORIDA, as were adopted by the ancient Northmen. 4. *A Map of Vineland*, also with the ancient Northern appellations. Finally, six ENGRAVINGS being delineations, and partly prospects of the Greenland and American monuments from the middle ages treated of in the work; several of these are very remarkable, and, for the most part, hitherto quite unknown, such as INSCRIPTIONS on Rocks in MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND, which from the disquisitions contained in the work, would seem to have been partly intended to indicate the *Landnam*, or the occupation of the country, effected by the ancient Northmen.

For the convenience of those who prefer reading ENGLISH to Latin, there is given *in English* a historical view of the Voyages of Discovery, accompanied by the geographical disquisitions, on which account the maps thereunto referring have also *English names*. Moreover the several communications received from the North American Members of the Society's Committee on the Ante-Columbian History of America are also inserted *in English*.

The Society considers the work now announced as so important and illustrative both of the history of the world in general and of the ancient North in particular, that both on this account and also as a well merited tribute to our forefathers, it ought in point of typography and embellishments to be published in as correct and splendid a dress as circumstances may permit. The price is proportioned to the size of the copies, and the style in which they are got up; viz. Large Vellum Paper 5 *l*, Imperial Paper 3 *l*. and Common Paper likewise 3 *l*.

The subscription for the two sets of fine paper copies being already nearly filled up, an early application is recommended to individuals who are desirous of obtaining copies on superiour paper.

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GRÖNLANDS
HISTORISKE MINDESMÆRKER.

(GREENLAND'S HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.)

The rediscovery of the coasts of East-Grönland, undertaken at the cost of the Danish Government, and achieved by Captain Graah, has anew directed the public attention towards such traces and vestiges as may be still remaining of the ancient Scandinavian Colony in Greenland. Monuments and Inscriptions lately discovered in the country itself shew that the colonization and navigation of the ancient Northmen extended all the way from the southernmost extremity of the land, to its most northern coasts and islands, even farther to the northward than it has been found practicable in our days to establish Danish settlements. A commencement has been made of investigating and elucidating the numerous remains of antiquity in South Greenland, and since 1831 arrangements have been entered into by this Society for securing their more accurate examination, delineation and description. Implements and other requisites have been dispatched thither to facilitate the prosecution of journeys for the purpose of constructing maps, of making excavations in the ruins, of executing drawings of the Monuments and Inscriptions, and for accomplishing whatever else may tend to a complete elucidation of the olden time of this remote Arctic land: and the local authorities of the country itself, in addition to the services already rendered by them, have promised a continuance of their assistance towards the prosecution of these researches. In this way, and also by means of the elucidations contained in the ancient manuscripts themselves, it is hoped that we may soon arrive at a certainty as to the long disputed site of the Eystribygd, and of the ancient bishopric of Gardar, and be also able to supply much further illustrative information. The work will consist of three sections, of which,

THE FIRST SECTION will contain ancient original writings and fragments, chiefly Icelandic or composed in the ancient language common to the countries of the North, relating to the early HISTORY OF GREENLAND, with separate introductions, annexed Danish translations, and explanatory notes. To which will be added, 1. *Genealogical Tables*, continued in some instances to the present times; 2. *Chronological Lists* containing a more complete Catalogue of the bishops and official persons in Greenland than those hitherto published; 3. *Several original Diplomas*, some of them newly discovered and hitherto unpublished, with the requisite translations. These accounts and documents begin about the year 900 and reach to the middle of the 15th century. Also a collection of less authentic accounts according to which it would appear that the ancient Colony was still in existence in the beginning of the 16th century; 4. An abstract of the *legal history* of the Icelandic republic and of *the oldest Lawbook relating to Greenland*, and in connexion therewith remarks on the administration of Justice there.

SECOND SECTION: Collection of ancient accounts relating to the GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF GREENLAND, with separate introductions, annexed Danish translations, and explanatory remarks. To which will also be added other communications and extracts of alleged,

but for the most part later, voyages of Italians and others to Greenland; among which the *voyages of the Zeni*, with critical and geographical disquisitions annexed.

THIRD SECTION: Later accounts and researches respecting GREENLAND particularly with regard to the MONUMENTS OF ITS OLDEN TIME, its antiquities and early history; among which, 1. A view of the more recent literary works treating of that country; 2. the rediscovery of the west coast of Greenland, and its modern colonization with a brief view of the most important voyages undertaken for that object, concerning which documents hitherto unknown will be communicated; 3. *A Topographical Description of West-Greenland* (taken partly from the Egedes, Cranz, Thorhallesen, Dalager, Bruhn, Arctander, Mörk, Saabye, Collin, Wormskiold, Kragh, and others) particularly as regards the vestiges and remains of the churches and dwelling houses of the ancient colonists, as also other monuments and antiquities remaining from their times, such as stones with inscriptions, etc. This division will contain extracts from older writings, some of which have been printed but are now scarce, while others of them have never before been printed; also a detailed exposition of the result of the investigations undertaken under the management of the Society: 4. Later accounts furnished by Scoresby and others, partly taken from the oral statements of native Greenlanders, and which relate to the East coast and its inhabitants, and also to the various shipwrecks of Danish vessels, with the loss or preservation of their crews on the same coast, extending down to the period of Graah's voyage; 5. Remarks on the most important results of Graah's voyage, especially with respect to his rediscovery of Gunnbiarnarsker and the Cross Islands. 6. *Geographical Researches* respecting the site of the firths and other places mentioned in the ancient MSS.

The work will be accompanied by illustrative maps, also by engraved plans of the ruins, delineations of the runic stones and other remains of antiquity found in Greenland. It will consist of 3 Volumes, of which 2 have already issued from the press. Price of Vol. I. II., Large Paper 2 *l.* 5 *s.* Common Paper 1 *l.* 10 *s.*

ANNALS AND MEMOIRS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

ENCOURAGED by the interest for Northern Antiquities, now awakened not only in our remote northern regions, but also in other countries, the Society have resolved to publish their Transactions and Researches concerning the earlier history and antiquities of Northern Europe and America in two simultaneous periodical works, to be entitled ANNALS and MEMOIRS; by which means they, no longer bounding their views by the limits of Northern Europe, hope to render the most important of their researches more easily accessible to the Public at large. In the ANNALS contributions of the above mentioned nature will be received in Danish or Swedish, (and occasionally in Icelandic); and, wherever it may appear desireable for the sake of elucidation or information, *Maps* will be given, and also *Delineations of Antiquities* and of the *Monu-*

ments of ancient times. The MEMOIRS, which are inseparably connected with the Annals, will comprize similar contributions, in *English*, *French* or *German*, either original or translated. In the Memoirs will also be given explanatory remarks on the most important of the Delineations contained in the Annals, and original contributions not elsewhere communicated in the works of the Society. In *English*, for example, there will be successively inserted the result of the continued investigations and researches of the Society's *Committees on the Historical Monuments of Greenland* and *on the Ante-Columbian History of America*, in order to throw as much light as possible on the ancient accounts contained in the two works above announced.

Of the Annals it is expected that one Number in 8vo, containing from 10 to 12 sheets, will be published yearly commencing from 1836; and that a Number of similar size will be published of the Memoirs every second year. The two first Numbers of the Annals are already published, and the first Number of the Memoirs will appear in the Summer of 1838. In each series two Numbers will always make a Volume. The price of each Number is 3 *s.* 6 *d.*, consequently of each volume 7 *s.*

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SCRIPTA HISTORICA ISLANDORUM, the same Sagas translated into Latin, with a critical apparatus, 12 vol.s 8vo., of which the first 7 are published. Price of Vol. I-VII. Vellum Paper 3 *l.* 19 *s.* Common Paper 2 *l.* 15 *s.*

OLDNORDISKE SAGAER, the same Sagas translated into Danish; complete in 12 Vol.s 8vo. Price Common Paper 3 *l.* 8 *s.*

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BOOKSELLERS.

LONDON { Mr. JAMES BOHN, 12, King William Street, Strand.
LONDON { Mr. THOMAS RODD, 2, Great Newport Street.
DUBLIN, Messrs. HODGES & SMITH, 21, College green.
PARIS, Mr. ARTHUS-BERTRAND, 23, Rue Hautefeuille.
FLORENCE, Mr. JOSEPH MOLINI, Via degli Archibusieri.
NEW YORK, Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, 53, Cedar Street.

From the above mentioned Booksellers the latest publications of the Society are always to be had; and orders are received by them for the earlier works. In general in the course of every spring the works published by the Society in the preceding interval will be dispatched to them. It is requested that orders for such works, as well as for those earlier published, may be sent to them before the close of February each year, in order that the expense of postage may be diminished by transmitting them to Copenhagen in one List.

It is to be observed that, from not knowing the expense of Freight and Duty, it has not been possible to include these charges in the prices fixed.

Members of the Society, and other persons *paying in advance*, either by Bills on one of the larger commercial houses of Europe, or to one of the Society's Agents, can also order the works directly from the Secretary's office.

REGULATIONS
OF THE
ICELANDIC PUBLICATION FUND,
ERECTED BY
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

I. The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries has, in conformity with one of its fundamental laws, erected a Permanent Fund, the annual interest of which is intended to be devoted exclusively to the publication and interpretation of Old Icelandic MSS and to the promotion of Northern Archæology in general.

II. To the progressive augmentation of this Fund are devoted: 1) All Compositions of fifty Rix-Dollars paid by the Members on their admission. 2) All larger Donations. 3) Should it ever happen that, in any given year, the sum of these Compositions and Donations were to fall short of a fifth of the Society's whole revenue for that year, so much from the Society's other income to be added thereto as will make them equal to a said fifth part of the whole.

III. It is incumbent on the Officers of the Society to take care that these Regulations be carried every year into effect, and especially on the Treasurer to specify in his Annual Accounts that the due amount has been added to the said Fund, as well as on the Auditors of every year to attest the same, with the view that this may be inserted in the Society's Annual Report.

IV. The Funds thus laid up are not to be diminished by any future resolution of the Society, to provide against which, it is resolved that the Royal Bonds, of which the said Permanent Fund consists, or will consist, shall in conformity herewith be endorsed as inalienable by sale, or transfer.

At a Meeting of the Society held the 30th of October 1834, these Regulations have, in conformity with the Statutes of the Society, been unanimously adopted, whereunto all Members now and henceforward shall conform themselves, observing the same in all their words, clauses, and stipulations.

Separate Regulation in the Statutes: The names of Members who pay a Composition of or above 100 Rix-Dollars (11 Guineas) are inserted in the List of the Founders. This List is to be published in all the Annual Reports of the Society.

*** The Agents receive for the Society the Compositions of the Society's Members, and of the Founders of the Icelandic Publication Fund; likewise Subscriptions and Payments for books published by the Society.

A number of Copies of the Society's Annual Reports are transmitted yearly to its Agents. In these are contained a List and Accounts of all the Compositions and Donations to the Permanent Fund received during the preceding year, so that every one has it in his power to convince himself that they have been added to the Permanent Fund. These Annual Reports are transmitted directly to the Members and Founders; and the Agents will also furnish them to Subscribers of the Society's works and to other persons wishing to be informed of the proceedings of the Society.

*** All Communications are to be addressed *to the Secretary*, Professor C. C. Rafn, 40 Crown-Prince Street, Copenhagen.